and whether it has been possible to save the small entrepreneurs from the clutches of bureaucracy; and

(d) if so, whether Government have any proposal to develop infrastructure based Small Scale Industries sector by means of a simple process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The total employment generated in the Small Scale Sector after the formation of this Ministry till March, 2001 is estimated to be 10.31 lakhs.

(c) The estimated employment in the Small Scale Sector for the year 1999-2000 was 178.50 lakh persons against the Ninth Plan target of 175 lakh persons and thus the desired success has been achieved and exceeded. The Government have taken several steps to simplify the laws and procedures to save the small entrepreneurs from the clutches of bureaucracy. These include, introduction of single window registration procedure, simplification of excise procedures, timely disposal of loan application etc.

(d) The Government have taken steps for the development of infrastructure based Small Scale Industries Sector. These include Integrated Infrastructure Development (IID) Scheme, which now covers all areas in the country with 50 percent reservation for rural areas.

Promotion of Satellite based communications

3008. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Central Government to consider the measures for promoting satellite based communications in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the measures proposed by the State Government;

(c) the extent to which these measures would be more helpful; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Andhra Pradesh Government had suggested the following measures for promoting satellite based communications in the country:

(i) Permit use of Ku-band from any satellite system suitable for communications including data services by licensed enterprises.

(ii) Expedite clearances and permissions to license private agencies to set up international internet gateways using any available satellite system with the least expensive transponder capacity.

(iii) Permit State Governments and private sector enterprises to uplink educational TV programmes and information services etc., from Indian territory, subject to spectral clearance from the Wireless Adviser.

(iv) Permit the satellite communications sector the same investment limit in respect of foreign equity as allowed for telecom sector.

(v) Treat the hardware requirement for satellite communications on the same footing as for the Information and Telecommunication sector for purposes of import duties and tariffs to encourage Complete Knock Down (CKD)/Semi Knock Down (SKD) manufacturing locally.

(c) and (d) These measures have to be assessed in the context of the systems currently operational in the country and the purposes for which they are being put to use.